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CATWOMAN 21

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"SUPERHERO OF THE YEAR: SUPERMAN."

– Entertainment WEEKLY

FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF THE MAN OF STEEL, MONTHLY IN

SUPERMAN ACTION COMICS

BENDIS | ROMITA JR.

SUPERMAN

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Creel Mansion.

I CAN'T SLEEP.

MONTHS IN THIS AWFUL CITY AND I STILL CAN'T SLEEP.

LIVING WITH BOTH FACES

JOËLLE JONES story
FERNANDO BLANCO art
FCO PLASCENCIA colors
SAIDA TEMOFONTE letters
JOËLLE JONES & LAURA ALLRED cover
IAN MacDONALD variant cover
BEN MEARES assistant editor
JESSICA CHEN editor
BEN ABERNATHY group editor

DLING DLONG

GHHHRRRR

Villa Hermosa Hospital.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

DEEEEEEEEEEEEE

I'VE TRIED ALL THE REMEDIES. WARM MILK, MEDITATION, PILLS. I EVEN ATE A RAW ONION...

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

...BUT IN THE END MY MIND JUST REFUSED TO SWITCH OFF.

GGGGRRRRRRRRRRRRRRAAAAAARRRRR

CRACK

L-LINDA?

DEEEEEEEEEEE

TINK A TINK

RR?

OH GOD... NO...

DEEEEEEEEEE

ZRRRAARRRR

IS SHE--

THE PERSISTENT HUM OF MY OVERACTIVE BRAIN...

DEEEEEEEE

GGRRRRRRRRR

...IS CONSTANTLY PULLING AT ME...

...WARNING ME.

MAYBE IT ISN'T A HUM AT ALL. MAYBE...

PLEASE-- JUST...

RAAAR

...IT'S AN ALARM.

DEEEEEEEE

...SAVE HER.

DEEEEEEEE

A WARNING.

ALERTING ME THAT MY LIFE HAS BEEN THROWN OUT OF BALANCE.

EVERYTHING SINCE I LEFT GOTHAM HASN'T FELT RIGHT.

THE WHOLE THING FEELS LIKE A JOKE!

ONE MINUTE I WAS LYING IN DIAMONDS, IN THE ARMS OF THE MAN I LOVED, AND THE NEXT...

...WELL...

...LET'S JUST SAY I FIND MYSELF IN A MUCH-DIMINISHED SITUATION.

AND I KNOW THIS HUMMING WILL CONTINUE...

...UNTIL I SET THE SCALES RIGHT AGAIN.

RAHHH!

CRSSH

COMPLETELY USELESS! ALL OF YOU!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

DO SOMETHING!

THE FIRST STEP IN SETTING THE SCALES RIGHT AGAIN IS ELIMINATING RAINA CREEL.

BUT BEFORE ANYTHING...

...MANNERS REALLY SHOULD BE OBSERVED WHEN ASKING A PERSON FOR WHAT YOU WANT.

CREEL! GIVE ME THE LAZARUS WATER OR I WILL CLAW OUT YOUR ENTRAILS, YOU USELESS @^%!

NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, MS. KYLE. BUT, RESPECTFULLY, I MUST DECLINE YOUR REQUEST.

BUT I DO APPRECIATE YOU COMING TO CALL.

FINICK, GO GET HER!

RAAAR

WHACK

NOT AT ALL! I'VE BEEN MEANING TO VISIT--

--FOR A WHILE NOW.

KRRNCH

THAT THE BEST YOU GOT?

YILMAZ, GET HER!

RAAARG

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU SEEMS DIFFERENT...

...DETECTIVE YILMAZ!

NEW SUIT?

CRASH

=HURF=

ARHG

UNGH

YOU'VE BEEN ON MY BACK SINCE I GOT HERE!

JAB

SANK

GRRAARR

AND I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD *ENOUGH!*

SHUNK

I'M SORRY THINGS HAD TO END THIS WAY...

...BUT I HAVE A SCHEDULE TO KEEP.

AND, MRS. CREEL, I PROMISE YOU...

...I WILL NOT STOP TILL I GET WHAT I CAME FOR!

OKAY, N-NOW HOLD ON A SECOND.

YOU HAVE *ONE MINUTE.*

LET'S JUST TALK THIS OUT...

...LIKE ADULTS...

KRRSH

...IF I DON'T KILL YOU FIRST!

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR ENERGY, CREEL.

JUST STOP.

UMPH

NOW...

...YOU STAY *VERY* STILL. WE WOULDN'T WANT AN ACCIDENT, *WOULD* WE?

NO? GOOD.

I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY. SOMETHING THAT, IF YOU LISTEN *VERY* CAREFULLY, MIGHT PROVE A VALUABLE LESSON FOR YOU.

"ONCE UPON A TIME...

"...WAIT--I NEED TO START OVER.

"ALL YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW IS, WHEN I WAS FIRST STRIKING IT OUT ON MY OWN, I WAS A REAL MESS.

HARD TO BELIEVE, I KNOW.

"I WAS BITTER TOWARD A WORLD THAT I FELT HAD SHUT ME OUT. I THOUGHT IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, I HAD TO BECOME RUTHLESS!

"LIFE BECAME A GAME AND I TOOK WHATEVER I WANTED.

"I TRAVELED THE GLOBE!

LE MONDE PARISIEN

VOL DANS L'OPERA

"EVERYTHING THAT HAD ONCE BEEN DENIED TO ME WAS NOW ONLY A PRACTICED HAND AWAY."

"BUT IT WAS NEVER ENOUGH. INSIDE OF ME I FELT THAT SOMETHING JUST WASN'T QUITE RIGHT.

"AND THEN ONE DAY I STARTED TO SEE THE THINGS AROUND ME THAT I HAD NOT NOTICED BEFORE.

LET ME SEE, GRANDMA!

ISN'T THAT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING YOU HAVE EVER SEEN?

DO YOU LIKE IT?

I LOVE IT!

"ONE CHEAP BAUBLE BROUGHT THAT WOMAN A JOY THAT THE ENTIRE COLLECTION OF CROWN JEWELS COULD NEVER GIVE ME.

"IT WAS SOMETHING THAT I COULD NEVER POSSESS.

"SOMETHING COMPLETELY BEYOND MY REACH.

"AND I HAVE NEVER WANTED A THING MORE!"

"NOTHING WOULD HAVE STOPPED ME FROM TAKING THAT RING...

"...BUT...

"...I DIDN'T.

"IT WASN'T OUT OF GUILT.

"IT WAS MY REFLECTION IN THE JEWELRY BOX. MY FACE LOOKING BACK AT ME.

"MY ENTIRE STORY WAS WRITTEN THERE.

"I SAW MY MOTHER...

"...MY FATHER...

"...MY ENTIRE YOUNG LIFE."

"I KNEW RIGHT THEN...

"...THAT I COULD NEVER *RUN* FROM IT.

"BUT...

Gotham Gazette

MYTH OR REAL LIFE VIGILANTE?

"...I COULD *CHANGE* IT!

"THE MASK LET ME BE THE WOMAN I WANTED TO BECOME...

...AND I FOUND A WAY TO LIVE WITH BOTH FACES.

HAVE YOU?

RAAARRR

ADAM!

RRRiiiPPP

NO!

Y-YOU...

...KILLED YOUR MOTHER...

NEED... MAKE... RIGHT...

...RIGHT.

YOU KNOW, IF IT WERE ANYBODY ELSE, I WOULD HAVE KICKED THEIR ASS OUT OF HERE.

I KNOW, THANKS FOR LETTING ME STAY.

YOUR AUNT, SHE'S--I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU FALSE HOPE OR ANYTHING, BUT--

YOU NEVER KNOW HOW IMPORTANT A GOOD NIGHT'S REST IS UNTIL YOU DON'T HAVE IT.

!

STAY HERE, CARLOS!

DEEE

...AND WHILE I DON'T WANT TO BE TOO POLLYANNA ABOUT IT...

TO CARLOS AYALA
FROM A MYSTERIOUS ADMIRER

...IT COULD ALL BE A GOOD THING.

I'm sorry I couldn't say goodbye in person, I've always been uncomfortable with that sort of thing...but I told Linda to give you a kiss from me once she is feeling better. Please look after this city—it's hurting and I can't be the one to save it. My place is elsewhere and I'm ready to go home. Look after her for me will ya?

Love, Selina
XOXO

A WAY OF LETTING YOU KNOW THAT THINGS ARE JUST NOT RIGHT...

...EVEN IF YOU'RE TOO BULLHEADED TO ADMIT IT TO YOURSELF.

BUT YOU GET A CHANCE...

YOU LIKE THIS SONG?

...AND IF YOU CATCH IT IN TIME...

...YEAH.

...THERE MIGHT BE A WAY TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

THEN LET'S TURN IT UP!

GOTHAM CITY 66 2100 MILES

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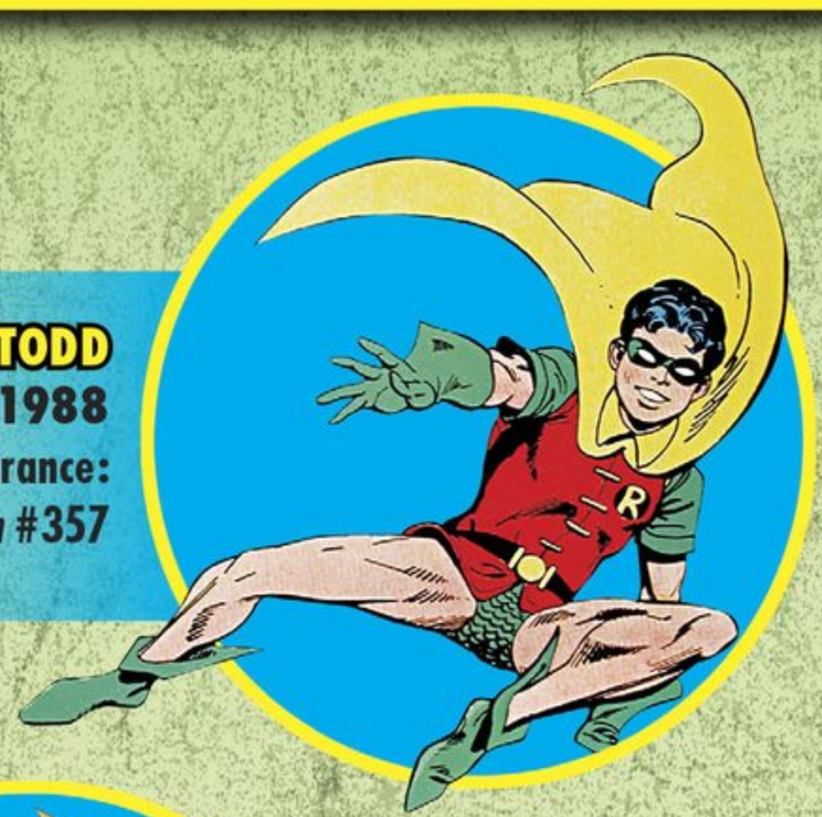
DC NATION SPOTLIGHT on ROBIN

Over the past eight decades, Robin has stood as a pop culture icon nearly as recognizable as Batman himself—and each of them gets the celebration they deserve in the *Robin 80th Anniversary 100-Page Super Spectacular* #1, on sale in March.

DICK GRAYSON
1940-1983
First appearance:
Detective Comics #38



JASON TODD
1983-1988
First appearance:
Batman #357

TIM DRAKE
1989-2009
First appearance:
Batman #436

STEPHANIE BROWN
2004
First appearance:
Detective Comics #647

DAMIAN WAYNE
2009-present
First appearance:
Batman: Son of the Demon

CARRIE KELLEY
The future!
(Or 1986.)
First appearance: *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* #1

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